

SN.10/673,918

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:092

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are now pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 have been amended to clarify and further define the present invention, and to improve their form. Specifically, claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 have been amended to clarify that the quantity of reflection light detected is from the endless belt itself. Further, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify that the synchronous timing is other than at which the one image forming condition is adjusted by the first image adjusting device. Claims 6 and 12 have been amended to recite that the timing earlier than at which the at least one image forming condition is adjusted by the image adjusting device. Claim 9 also has been amended to conform to the changes made to the parent claim and to improve its form. The preamble of claims 11 and 12 has been amended to positively recite the invention as a --storage device storing a computer program-- rather than a computer program itself. Claim 11 further has been amended to include a passage that was inadvertently omitted ("a plurality of image adjusting modules ..."). Allowed claim 13 also has been amended to improve its form without changing its scope. Further, new independent claims 14-16 have been added. Claims 15 and 16 are original claims 4 and 5 in independent form. New claim 14, differing in scope from claims 1 and 6, has been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Allowable Claims

Claim 13 has been allowed, and claims 4 and 5 have been indicated to be allowable if they are placed in independent form. Claims 4 and 5 have been placed in independent form as new claims 15 and 16. Accordingly, claims 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-3 and 6-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Nakazato (USP 6,336,008). Applicants traverse this rejection at least to the extent that Nakazato would

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not have taught detecting the quantity of reflection light from an endless belt itself and correcting the image density based on the quantity of the reflection light therefrom, as set forth in independent claims 1, 6, 11, 12, and 14.

Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, and 14 call for a detecting device that detects detection patterns formed on an endless belt and a quantity of reflection light from the endless belt itself, and a correction device that corrects the detection patterns detected by the detecting device based on the quantity of reflection light from the endless belt itself. See for example at least the first full paragraph of page 37 of the present disclosure.

Nakazato discloses an image forming apparatus having an intermediate transfer belt (ITB) 41, an electrify bias generation part 121, and a development bias generation part 125. It also includes a density adjustment for updating an electrifying bias and a development bias. While Nakazato discloses measuring the image density of the patch images formed on the ITB 41 for adjusting image density by the development bias generation part 125 and the electrify bias generation part 121, Nakazato does not detect the quantity of reflection light from the intermediate transfer belt 41 itself for correcting the image density. Nakazato merely discloses measuring the image density of the patch images in steps 312f, 313f, etc. Nakazato simply does not measure any quantity of light reflecting from the ITB 41 itself (namely reflection of the ITB where there is no image patch formed). Accordingly, Nakazato would not have disclosed or taught the present invention.

Further, claims 1 and 11 call for detecting the quantity of reflection light from the endless belt itself synchronously with the adjustment of the other one of the image forming conditions by the second image adjusting device, other than at which the one the image forming condition is adjusted by the first image adjusting device. Claims 6 and 12 call for detecting the quantity of reflection light from the endless belt itself in timing earlier than at which the at least one image forming condition is adjusted by an image adjusting device. Claim 14 calls for detecting the quantity of reflection light from the endless belt itself in timing at which the detection patterns are detected by the second detecting device, other than at which the at least one image forming condition is adjusted by the image adjusting device. Nakazato further would not have taught these features.

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Conclusion


Applicants submit that claims 1-16 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP

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Date


Lyle Kimms
Reg. No. 34,079 (Rule 34)

P.O. BOX 826
Ashburn, VA 20146-0826
703-726-6020 (Phone)
703-726-6024 (fax)